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Progress During the Year.

It is difficult to determine the relative value of events as they take place. This is as true of occurrences in the peace movement as elsewhere. We have, however, little reason to doubt that when time enough has passed to give a true perspective, the year just closing will rank as a very important one in respect of events marking the progress of the peace cause. Grounds for discouragement have certainly not been wanting. All know what they are, and how heavily they have weighed at times upon the minds of those who had believed that the civilized world was already safely past the possibility of such debasement. But, while evil has abounded, in intense and headstrong fashion, good has more abounded, and steadily and unremittingly pushed its way to the front.

The peace societies have never carried on a more active and vigorous campaign than during the past twelve months. Their number has increased until there are now, including branches, about four hundred and fifty of them. They have persisted in uttering their message, and in a direct and most practical way. They have made their protest not only against war in general, but they have not allowed censure, contempt or ridicule to drive them from expressing

their condemnation of the particular wars now disgracing the world.

Many important meetings, conferences and congresses have occurred in the twelvemonth. In France the most notable meeting ever held in the nation, with the exception of the international congresses, took place in February, when all the French members of the Hague Court were present and Mr. Léon Bourgeois, head of the French delegation to the Hague Peace Conference, presided.

The Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration, now so powerful in its work in this country, never before had so large an attendance as at its session the last of May, and ten thousand copies of its report have been distributed to editors, public and college libraries, etc. Mr. Smiley decided this year for the first time to widen and strengthen this work by the employment of a permanent general secretary of the conference.

In July a peace congress of the Scandinavian countries, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland, was held at Skien, Norway. It was attended by forty-one delegates from Norway, thirty from Denmark, twenty-one from Sweden, and two from Finland. Among its resolutions, the most important was one urging an alliance for peace and arbitration of the three kingdoms of Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and a declaration on their part of permanent neutrality.

In Italy an event of unusual promise was the recent interview granted by the young King, on his visit to Milan, to representatives of the Lombard Peace Union, the most powerful of the peace associations in the peninsula. The memorial presented to the King on this occasion we give in full in this issue. The reception accorded the representatives of the Union was most cordial, and King Victor Emanuel III. declared himself in hearty sympathy with the essential aims of the friends of peace in his country. Some really important step may reasonably be expected from him, we think, in the near future.

We need only mention in this connection the two congresses held at Glasgow during the course of the Exposition, the Twentieth International Law Conference and the Tenth International Peace Congress, reports of both of which have occupied so much of the space of our recent issues. The former was presided over by Lord Chief Justice Alverstone (formerly Sir Richard Webster), and the principal discussion of the entire three days was that on the question of international arbitration treaties as sup-